

What is claimed is:

1. A system for managing visual images of vehicles, comprising:
 - a first digital video image collector positioned to capture a first data file that is representative of a visual image of at least one feature of a first vehicle moving on a roadway, the first digital video image collector including a first communications port;
 - a computing device having a processor, a memory, and a second communications port;
 - a first communications link between the first communications port and the second communications port;
 - a first information collection device in communication with the computer, the first information collection device positioned to capture at least one of speed, acceleration, and emissions data corresponding to the first vehicle.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the first communications port is capable of transferring data at a transfer rate substantially equal to at least one of 100, 200, and 400 megabits per second.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the first communications port substantially complies with the IEEE 1394 Standard for a High Performance Serial Bus.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the first communications link comprises

a serial connection capable of transferring data at a transfer rate substantially equal to at least one of 100, 200, and 400 megabits per second.

5. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a second digital video image collector positioned to capture a second data file that is representative of a visual image of at least one feature of a second vehicle moving on a roadway, the second digital camera including a third communications port, and

a second communications link between the third communications port and the first digital video image collector.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein the second information collection device is further positioned to capture at least one of speed, acceleration, and emissions data corresponding to the second vehicle.

7. The system of claim 5 further comprising a second information collection device positioned to capture at least one of speed, acceleration, and emissions data corresponding to the second vehicle.

8. The system of claim 5 wherein the third communications port is capable of transferring data at a transfer rate substantially equal to at least one of 100, 200, and 400 megabits per second.

9. The system of claim 5 wherein the third communications port substantially complies with the IEEE 1394 Standard for a High Performance Serial Bus.

10. The system of claim 5 wherein the second communications link comprises a serial connection capable of transferring data at a transfer rate substantially equal to at least one of 100, 200, and 400 megabits per second.

11. The system of claim 1 further comprising an illumination source positioned to provide illumination directed to the at least one feature of the first vehicle.

12. A method of capturing and managing vehicle images, comprising:
collecting, using a first video capture device, a first digital image of at least one feature of a first vehicle;
collecting, using a data collection device, first data representative of at least one of speed, acceleration, and emissions of the first vehicle; and
delivering the first digital image and the first data to a computer program memory via at least one communications link.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the delivering step is performed at a transfer rate substantially equal to at least one of 100, 200, and 400 megabits per second.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein the delivering step is performed via a serial connection that substantially complies with the IEEE 1394 Standard for a High Performance Serial Bus.

15. The method of claim 12 comprising wherein the first video capture device and the memory are housed in a single housing, and the delivering step is performed via an IEEE 1394 serial bus.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein:

the first video capture device and the memory are housed in separate housings, and the communications link comprises a first communications port associated with the video capture device, a second communications port associated with the memory, and a serial cable; and

the delivering step comprises transferring data at a transfer rate substantially equal to at least one of 100, 200, and 400 megabits per second.

17. The method of claim 12 comprising the additional step of transmitting the digital image and the data via a communications port.

18. The method of claim 12 comprising the additional steps of:

collecting, using a second video capture device, a second digital image of at least one feature of a second vehicle;

collecting, using a data collection device, second data representative of at least one of speed, acceleration, and emissions of the second vehicle; and

delivering the second digital image and the second data to the computer program memory.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the delivering of the second data in the delivering step comprises delivering the second digital image to the first video capture device via a second communications link and subsequently delivering the second digital image to the computer program memory via the first communications link.

20. A system for capturing and managing vehicle images, comprising:

a means for capturing a first image of a first vehicle;

a means for capturing first data representative of at least one of speed, acceleration, and emissions corresponding to the first vehicle; and

a means for delivering the first image and the first data to a memory of a computing device at a transfer rate substantially equal to at least one of 100, 200, and 400 megabits per second.

21. The system of claim 20, further comprising:

a means for capturing a second image of a second vehicle;

a means for capturing second data representative of at least one of speed, acceleration, and emissions corresponding to the second vehicle; and

a means for delivering the second image and the second data to the memory at a transfer rate substantially equal to at least one of 100, 200, and 400 megabits per second.

22. The system of claim 19, further comprising of a means for illumination at least a portion of the first vehicle without distracting the attention of a driver of the vehicle.